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FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT SECTION

444-6654

Volume 24

June 1986

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Floodplain Managers Conference

A representative from our office will be attending the annual conference of the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) June 15-20, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. We hope to gain some valuable insights into serving Montana's floodplain communities.

What We Have Learned Since
The Big Thompson Flood

A symposium will be held in Boulder, Colorado on July 17-19, 1986, to mark the tenth anniversary of the disastrous Big Thompson flood that took over a hundred lives. This symposium will assess what we have accomplished in flash flood prevention and management in the last decade. The symposium will conclude with a field trip to the Big Thompson Canyon. Registration fee is \$115. Contact Eve Gruntfest, Big Thompson Symposium, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, CO 80933-7150, (303) 593-3513 or (802) 933-6655.

AGENT AND LENDER WORKSHOPS

Date	City	Location	Time	Workshop	Fee
6/10	Missoula	Red Lion Motel	8:30 - Noon	Agents	\$15
6/11	Missoula	Red Lion Motel	9:00 - 3:30	Lenders	\$35
6/12	Kalispell	Outlaw Inn	9:00 - 3:30	Lenders	\$35
6/13	Kalispell	Outlaw Inn	8:30 - Noon	Agents	\$15
7/29	Helena	Colonial Inn	9:00 - 3:30	Lenders	\$35
7/30	Helena	Colonial Inn	8:30 - Noon	Agents	\$15
7/31	Bozeman	Holiday Inn	9:00 - 3:30	Lenders	\$35

For more information, or to register for these workshops, contact James Quinn, CSC, 2801 Youngfield, Suite 320, Golden, CO 80401, phone (303) 231-9911, or contact Deeda Richard, DNRC.

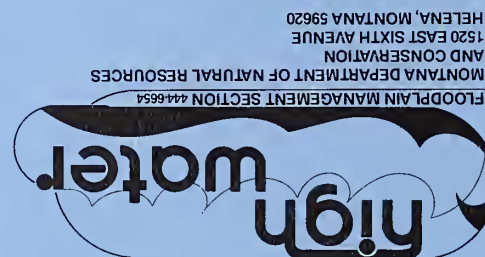


FLOOD DAMAGE

Pictured above is one of several bridges in Pondera County damaged by flooding on February 24th and 25th. Two and a half to three feet of snow melted rapidly with the sixty degree temperatures. High volumes of water and ice caused severe road and bridge damage in many areas. The tragic death of a Conrad man whose truck plunged off a washed-out bridge approach should remind us that there is continued need for public education about flood hazards.

DISASTER DECLARATIONS

Sixteen Montana counties have been declared disaster areas as a result of flooding in late February and early March. These counties will be eligible for federal financial assistance: Chouteau, Daniels, Dawson, Deer Lodge, Fergus, Glacier, Granite, Liberty, Petroleum, Phillips, Pondera, Powell, Sanders, Teton, Toole, and Valley counties.



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HAZARD MITIGATION GRANTS

In our December 1985 issue of High Water we reported that Lewis and Clark County received a hazard mitigation grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. We would like to provide more background on these grants. Perhaps your community would be interested in applying.

In April 1986, \$25,000 in grant money for seven states in FEMA Region 8 became available for Fiscal Year 1987 (October 1986 to September 1987). This amount is subject to budget cuts. All proposals must be submitted to the State Disaster and Emergency Services Office no later than August 1, 1986. Grant negotiations take place from mid-August to mid-September. For more detailed information, please contact us.

Grant money is available for unique projects that reduce the degree of long-term risk to an area. The projects must focus on hazard mitigation plans, including pre- and post-disaster plans. Also eligible are implementation of certain hazard mitigation measures, such as the development of state legislation or local ordinances. Proposals are rated on a point system. The first five criteria listed below must be met for a proposal to be considered. The rest are other highly rated evaluation criteria.

- 1) Vulnerability to hazards; the number of lives and value of property at risk.
- 2) Frequency of past and estimated future hazards during the life of the plan.
- 3) The responsible government entity must be committed to the proposal objectives.
- 4) The responsible government entity must comply with National Flood Insurance Program regulations.
- 5) The proposal must show the potential for long-term benefits through hazard vulnerability reduction.
- 6) Amount of any nonfederal funds being used.
- 7) Number of hazards involved (flood, earthquake, landslide, drought, dam failure, tornado, etc.).
- 8) Suitability of hazard mitigation grant for the project.

Not considered are structural mitigation measures (levees, dams, etc.), purchase of materials and supplies, acquisition and relocation of structures. Also ineligible is development of preparations such as warning systems or temporary evacuation plans. For projects of this nature see the following article.

DNRC WORKS WITH CORPS OF ENGINEERS

The Corps of Engineers tells us that the State of Montana isn't taking full advantage of their assistance programs for problems such as flood protection. We'd like to explain some of the Corps' programs, and encourage communities to contact the Corps.

Section 206 of the 1960 Flood Control Act authorizes the Corps to provide, upon request, information, technical planning assistance, and guidance in identifying the magnitude and extent of flood hazards and in planning wise use of floodplains. Technical services and guidance may include: suggesting floodway areas, furnishing information on flood damage forecasting, flood-proofing, and other corrective measures.

Section 55 of the 1974 Water Resources Development Act authorizes the Corps to provide technical and engineering assistance to nonfederal public interests in developing structural and nonstructural methods of preventing shore and streambank erosion. This includes inspection of problem areas, advice on economic benefit evaluation, possible methods of protection, construction permit requirements, and technical assistance to help the recipient evaluate the possibility of erosion and prepare plans for its prevention.

The Corps also has the authority under Section 14 of the 1948 Flood Control Act to build emergency streambank and shoreline structures to prevent damage to endangered public facilities.

Once a request for assistance is received, the Corps begins its planning process; problems are identified, alternatives formulated, and solutions proposed. There is a thorough analysis of engineering and economic considerations.

Several floodplain information reports have been published by the Corps for streams in Montana, including sections of the Clark Fork, Yellowstone, and Missouri rivers. A large flood control levee build by the Corps affords flood protection to several hundred homes near the Sun River in Great Falls. The Corps provided the planning and engineering design, and paid construction costs. Property owners benefitting from the levee's protection provided land easements and right-of-way for construction. The property owners also agreed to maintain the levee.

To request assistance, contact:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District
Missouri River Basin
Planning Division
6014 U.S. Post Office and Courthouse
Omaha, Nebraska 68102
(402) 221-4472

or

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District
Columbia River Basin
Planning Division
Seattle, Washington 98124-2255
(206) 764-3360

Although the Corps provides assistance to local governments, a successful project is a cooperative effort and may require sharing of costs. The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation administers a water development loan and grant program. With this financial aid program, local governments may secure grants and low interest loans to satisfy cost-sharing arrangements for some of the Corps' assistance programs. Contact the Water Development Bureau of DNRC for more information.